

**Naval Vessel Historical Evaluation**  
INITIAL DETERMINATION



This evaluation is unclassified

Name	Hull Number
USNS Richard G. Matthiesen	T-AOT-1124
Vessel Class	Previous Vessel Designation (if any)
Gus W Darnell (AOT 1121)	N/A
Vessel Location	Current Status
MARAD National Defense Reserve Fleet, Beaumont, TX	Disposed of by Navy title transfer to the Maritime Administration

Initial Evaluation Date	Initial Finding
6 November 2023	Ineligible
Final Evaluation Date	Eligibility for Listing to the National Register of Historic Places
	Ineligible

**Vessel Snapshot**

<b>Lineage</b>	The ship was named after Richard G Matthiesen, a Merchant Marine Distinguished Service Medal recipient.
<b>Displacement</b>	32572 tons
<b>Length</b>	615 ft

<b>Beam</b>	90 ft
<b>Draft</b>	36 ft
<b>Speed</b>	16 knots (30 km/h; 18 mph)
<b>Propulsion</b>	Single shaft
<b>Armament</b>	Unarmed
<b>Laid Down</b>	1985
<b>Launched</b>	18 February 1986
<b>Built By</b>	American Ship Building Company
<b>Sponsor</b>	N/A
<b>Delivered</b>	18 February 1986
<b>Commissioned</b>	18 February 1986
<b>Inactivated</b>	31 March 2011
<b>Decommissioned</b>	31 March 2011
<b>Stricken</b>	31 March 2011

#### **Vessel History**

<b>Deployment Summary</b>	<p>USNS Richard G. Matthiesen (T-AOT-1124) was originally named the MV Richard G. Matthiesen and used for transport of military assets in various theaters.</p> <p>It was not until the outbreak of the Iraq war in 2003 when the ship was purchased by the United States Navy that it was fully put under the operation of Military Sealift Command.</p>
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	<p>This ship also had a refit to expand its abilities to do underway replenishment of multiple ships.</p> <p>On January 26, 2011, the USNS Richard G. Matthiesen arrived at McMurdo Sound, Antarctica, to conduct the 26th and final Deep Freeze mission for the T-5 tanker series in support of the U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command (MSC) and the National Science Foundation (NSF).</p> <p>During this final Antarctic voyage, the USNS Matthiesen refueled the IB Oden, the RVIB Nathaniel B. Palmer, and delivered over 5.5 million gallons of fuel to McMurdo Station, enough to operate for one year.</p> <p>To commemorate the occasion, the USNS Matthiesen, on behalf of Ocean Ships Inc., presented the vessel's builder's plaque and a ceremonial life ring signed by all crew members to the National Science Foundation on Feb. 2, at the NSF Chalet in McMurdo Station. Among those present were Capt. Steven Barclay, master of the USNS Matthiesen, Ice Pilot Capt. Rick Beede, Chief Engineer Peter Gorman, Chief Mate Christopher Brown, Jessie Crain of the NSF and Larry Larsson, MSC representative.</p> <p>The builder's plaque and life ring will be permanently displayed at the Chalet as a testament to the professionalism of the officers and crew of the USNS Matthiesen, as well as the M/V Gus W. Darnell, M/V Samuel L. Cobb, USNS Paul Buck and the USNS Lawrence H. Gianella. During their 26-year run, the Champion Class tankers delivered more than 137 million gallons of fuel to McMurdo Station, with zero environmental incidents.</p> <p>Upon her departure from McMurdo Station on Feb. 5, the USNS Richard G. Matthiesen proceeded to Mobile, Ala., for decommissioning. On March 15, the USNS Richard G. Matthiesen entered Mobile Bay for the final time, where the vessel was struck from the U.S. Navy's registry of active vessels, and was turned over to the Maritime Administration.</p>
<p><b>Noteworthy Events</b></p>	<p>Long Term Charter by MSC: 18 February 1986 Acquired by US Navy: 15 January 2003.</p> <p>USNS Matthiesen was part of Military Sealift Command's Sealift Program, transporting fuel for the Department of Defense. Richard G. Matthiesen had missions including refueling the National Science Foundation in Antarctica and Thule Air Base in Greenland. She was named after Richard G Matthiesen, a Merchant Marine Distinguished Service Medal recipient.</p> <p>On 22 March 2023, the USNS Richard Matthiesen, title was transferred by Navy to Maritime Administration (MARAD).</p>
<p><b>Awards</b></p>	<p>National Defense Service Medal Southwest Asia Service Medal</p>

	Kuwait Liberation Medal Merchant Marine Distinguished Service Medal
<b>DANFS* Entry</b>	

\**Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*

**Criteria Evaluation<sup>1</sup>**

<b>i. Was the vessel awarded an individual Presidential Unit Citation? (A Presidential Unit Citation is awarded to military units that have performed an extremely meritorious or heroic act, usually in the face of an armed enemy.)</b>	No
<b>ii. Did an individual act of heroism take place aboard the vessel such that an individual was subsequently awarded the Medal of Honor or the Navy Cross? (The Medal of Honor is awarded for valor in action against an enemy force. The Navy Cross is awarded for extraordinary heroism in action not justifying an award of the Medal of Honor.)</b>	No
<b>iii. Was a President of the United States assigned to the vessel during his or her naval service?</b>	No
<b>iv. Was the vessel the first to incorporate engineering, weapons systems, or other upgrades that represent a revolutionary change in naval design or warfighting capabilities?</b>	No
<b>v. Did some other historic or socially significant event occur on board the vessel?</b>	No
<b>Historic Evaluation Conclusion</b>	Ineligible

<b>Sources</b>	<a href="https://www.nvr.navy.mil/SHIPDETAILS/SHIPSDETAIL_AOT_1124.HTML">https://www.nvr.navy.mil/SHIPDETAILS/SHIPSDETAIL_AOT_1124.HTML</a>
	<a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USNS_Richard_G._Matthiesen">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USNS_Richard_G._Matthiesen</a>
	<a href="http://www.amo-union.net/article.php?a=1166">http://www.amo-union.net/article.php?a=1166</a>

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<sup>1</sup> Evaluation conducted using triggers established for naval vessels in *Program Comment for the Department of Navy for the Disposition of Historic Vessels*, issued by the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation on 15 March 2010.

**Historic Preservation Stakeholder Comment**

Historic preservation stakeholder comments received are considered when preparing final determinations. The initial determination for this vessel was made available for comment by historic preservation stakeholders for 60 days. During that time, the Navy received \_\_ written comments.

Comments Received	Comment Disposition